

University of Michigan Law School

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### Hutchins Hall, 1933

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# Hutchins Hall, 1933



View across law quad to Hutchins Hall  
1934 from "A book of the law quadrangle"

*Source: A Book of the Law Quadrangle*

This, the last of Cook's gifts of buildings, is simpler than the rest of the Law Quad for two reasons.

First, construction began shortly before Cook's death, so he was less involved in making decisions and pushing the architects to do their best work, as he had for all the other buildings. There were difficulties in settling Cook's estate which slowed the flow of money to the construction immediately after his death.



Interior view of State Street entrance. 1934

*Source: A Book of the law quadrangle*

Cook had been, and then nurturing what was often a difficult relationship for the next twenty years.



Classroom in Hutchins Hall 1934

*Source: A Book of the law quadrangle*

small collection of primary legal materials. Over the years, the use of that room has changed: first the study hall was turned into a space for interviewing; later, a computer lab was added; and most recently the room has become a very popular student lounge, with email terminals and coffee service.

Hutchins Hall, like the other buildings, has inscriptions and symbolic stained glass designs in the windows. For example, at the intersection of the corridors high up on the wall appear three inscriptions, including "The life of the law has

Second, the great depression had begun, and the value of Cook's estate was falling. The University proceeded much more cautiously than Cook had in the booming 1920's.

Cook wanted "the law school building" named after Harry Burns Hutchins, who had been Dean of the Law School from 1895-1910, and President of the University from 1910-1920. Hutchins was the person most responsible for Cook's gift, first finding how successful



View from Hutchins Hall, 1934

*Source: A Book of the law quadrangle*

Hutchins Hall contains two floors of class and seminar rooms, and two floors of faculty offices, including those of the Law School administration. The classrooms were built with sound-proofing plaster and rubber tile floors, and with continuous desk tops in the form of an amphitheater.

When the building opened, the Michigan Law Review's offices were on the fourth floor, as were, from the late 1950's, the offices of the Institute of Continuing Legal Education. By the late 1980's both had moved to new locations, and the Law School occupied all four floors.

Originally, Hutchins Hall also had a study room, 200 HH, which could seat 224 people and which held a



not been logic. It has been experience.”  
There are Latin inscriptions in colored  
glass in the first floor windows, which  
have small colored cartoons caricaturing various phases of the law.

## Practice (Moot) Court Room, 1934

*Source: A Book of the law quadrangle*



View of towers in the Law Quad  
from Hutchins Hall, 1934.

*Source: A Book of the law quadrangle*



A window cartoon, 1934  
(View in Gallery)

*Source: A Book of the law quadrangle*